

# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)  
 SUBJECT Thuringian State Administration School  
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1. The Thuringian Land Administration School (Landesverwaltungsschule),\* located at Karl Marx Platz 2 in Weimar, \*\* initiated on 27 March 1951 a six-month administration course for approximately 200 students ranging in age from 18 to 40 years, the average being about 25 years. Approximately one-third of the students are women and nearly ninety per cent. are members of the SED. Although the great majority are from Thuringia, an estimated ten per cent. are employed in government offices in East Berlin, and source does not know of the existence at the school of any students from West Germany. The students, recommended for attendance by their government offices on the basis of administrative efficiency coupled with lack of proper political indoctrination, are, on the whole, of good caliber. Because of the shortage of qualified teachers and the recognized practice of the school administration in retaining outstanding students as instructors for subsequent classes, some students of more than average ability refrain from attempting to achieve a superior performance, preferring to return to their government positions.\*\*\*
2. The principal purpose of the course is to give to the students basic political indoctrination, both theoretical and practical. Only 20 hours of instruction in the entire six-month course can be considered designed to impart proper techniques of administration. The 200 hours scheduled for the study of the laws of the DDR can be considered political indoctrination rather than training in administration. The main topics of study and discussion are world history, history of the CP/USSE, the German labor movement, capitalistic imperialism, and related subjects. In mastering these topics, students spend daily three hours at lectures, from two to four hours in study periods, and from two to four hours in seminars. Once a month an examination is given on a broad subject such as "The Meaning of the Five-Year Plan for the DDR". These topics are not announced beforehand, are to be completed without reference books, and require four to five hours to finish. In addition, a 15-minute quiz is given each week on an unannounced subject. The results of these written examinations are combined with grades from oral work in the seminars and from political activity outside of the classroom to make one final grade for the course. Students are required to attend two scheduled films weekly, to participate in evening meetings and rallies, and to perform manual labor on Sundays in the Thuringian forests. Discipline is strict; violators of the dormitory curfew at 2300 hours are punished by being forced to make a public admission of laxity before the assembled student body. Properly speaking, however, self-criticism in the Communist sense is not practiced, although each student must compile a detailed

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autobiographical account listing his deficiencies and suggestions for improving his ideological attitude. Source reports, however, that in spite of such measures and an inadequate diet, morale is good.

3. During the preparations for the anti-rearmament plebiscite of 3 - 5 June 1951, students were charged with explaining to the population the purpose of the referendum. On the actual voting days, each student was sent to a small town in Thuringia near the border of the American Zone where he worked actively with the mayor and the National Front in getting out and counting the vote. Following this "practical" political activity the student was required to execute a detailed questionnaire analyzing the results in the town to which he had been assigned. The questionnaire covered such matters as the morale of the peasants, attitudes of citizens, teachers, and clergy, and biographical and political descriptions of the mayor and other leading personalities of the town.
4. All students of the Thuringian Land Administration School were granted leave from 18 July until 26 August 1951 for the purpose of attending the World Youth Festival in East Berlin. Between 50 and 60 SED members of the student body were selected by the Party as "special students" to carry out "special missions". These "special students" did not leave Weimar on 18 July but remained to attend closed meetings. It is generally believed that they will be assigned to border towns in Thuringia to receive delegations of West German youth and to escort them to Berlin. Because of the extended leave granted for attendance at the Festival, it is possible that the course scheduled to terminate on 30 September 1951 will be continued for an additional thirty days.
5. Leading members of the faculty of the Thuringian Land Administration School are as follows:
  - a. Gerhard Wagenhaus, SED, about 35 years of age, intelligent, amiable, convinced Marxist, imprisoned seven years by the Nazis, is the head of the school and is in charge of all political instruction.
  - b. Oskar Goppert, SED, approximately 28 years old, strict, former prisoner of war in the USSR where he received political training, is deputy head of the school in charge of the study program; his special field is political economy.
  - c. (Fnu) Müller, SED, amiable; in spite of post-war political schooling in the USSR, he is not as dogmatic a Marxist as are most of the instructors; his special field is social economy. \*\*\*\*
  - d. Herbert Schuster, SED, about 35, right hand amputated, is intelligent and class conscious; he cooperates closely with Wagenhaus; his specialty is political economy. \*\*\*\*
  - e. Fritz Anders, SED, about 33 years, served in the USSR during the war, is a former student at the Forst Zinna Academy and a specialist in world history. \*\*\*\*
  - f. Hans Michel, SED, about 28 years old, delivers lectures on political science. \*\*\*\*
  - g. (Fnu) Riemenschnitter, SED, approximately 33 years of age, thought never to have been in the USSR, is the least fanatic member of the faculty; he lectures on "Western culture". \*\*\*\*
  - h. Heinz Fischer, SED, about 26 years old, is not a convinced Marxist; he was a student at the Thuringian Land Administration School in the autumn of 1950 and became a member of the faculty; he has no particular scholastic field. \*\*\*\*
  - i. (Fnu) Hürchner, although Party secretary of the faculty SED group, is thought to be an opportunist rather than a fanatic Marxist; he is a close friend of Riemenschnitter; his field is the German labor movement.

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- j. (Fnu) List, SED, about 32 years of age, was severely wounded in the war; he delivers lectures on German history.
- k. (Fnu) Reichel, SED, about 32 years old, was badly wounded in the war; he lectures on the history of the USSR 1917 - 1920.
- l. (Fnu) Lempp, SED, approximately 29 years, has a lame leg; he is a convinced Marxist, favoring the SED students over the others; he lectures on historical dialectics. \*\*\*\*
- m. (Fnu) Wolff, SED, about 25 years old, gives no lectures.
- n. (Fnu) Matysik, SED, approximately 28 years, intelligent, well educated, gives lectures on German economics.
- o. (Fnu) Anton, although not a member of the faculty, gives guest lectures and conducts special short courses at the school for KO employees.

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\* [REDACTED] Comment: The Thuringian Land Administration School ranks next to the Walter Ulbricht Academy in Forst Zinna.

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\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: Also located at Karl Marx Platz 2 in Weimar is the Thuringian Land Basic Administration School (Grundschule) which offers three-month courses for Thuringian students with very little political background. Many of these students, after returning to their government positions, later attend the six-month course at the Land Administration School. Oskar Gönfert is the head of the Basic School where teachers from the Administration School deliver lectures. In July 1951, the Basic School was not in session, no class being scheduled until the completion of the course of study at the Administration School in September or October 1951.

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\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: An outstanding example of such a student is Gerda Nielsen, SED, approximately 34 years of age. She is a Referentin (monthly salary about 900 DM East) in the Radio Section of the DDR Office of Information in Berlin. She is extremely intelligent and, it is reported, will become an Intendantin when she completes the six-month course at the school.

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\*\*\*\* [REDACTED] Comment: These faculty members are seminar leaders. The original number of seven seminars composed of a leader and from 25 to 30 students was reduced to six with the elimination of Herbert Schuster's seminar caused when approximately 20 students left the school for reasons of health.

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